

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00
SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 SCS-03 FBO-02 /079 W
-----211025Z 040875 /22

O 210730Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1241
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN PUNJAB

REF: LAHORE 0411

SUMMARY: APRIL 20 IN THE PUNJAB WAS A DAY OF LARGELY PEACEFUL
POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT HAND GRENADE WAS TOSSED INTO CAR
OF LAHORE MNA, WOUNDING HIM SLIGHTLY. SEVERAL PROCESSIONS
PLANNED FOR LAHORE ON APRIL 21 BY BOTH SIDES. APRIL 22
"JAM THE WHEELS" HARTAL PROMISES TO BE COMPLETE WHILE ADDITIONAL
PROCESSIONS ARE PLANNED FOR AFTERNOON THAT DAY. PNA ACTING
PRESIDENT NASRULLAH KHAN GAVE PRESS INTERVIEW THAT IS BEING
INTERPRETED AS RELAXATION OF PNA POSITION THAT PRIME MINISTER
MUST RESIGN BEFORE DIALOGUE CAN BEGIN. ONE ADDITIONAL
MPA HAS RESIGNED FROM PPP AND LEADERS OF THIRTY-FOUR LABOR
UNIONS REPRESENTING LARGE SEGMENTS OF ORGANIZED LABOR
THREATENED "SERIOUS ACTION" IF PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT
RESIGN AND LIFT MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH CURRENT VIOLENCE.
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END SUMMARY.

1. PNA HELD FAIRLY LARGE AND ORDERLY PROCESSION AFTERNOON

OF APRIL 20 ALONG LAHORE'S MALL. WITH EXCEPTION OF RAWALPINDI,
WHERE SOME ARSON REPORTED, PROCESSIONS HELD ELSEWHERE IN
PUNJAB APPEAR TO HAVE GONE OFF PEACEFULLY AND WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT

INCIDENTS. DURING MORNING AN UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANT LOBBED A HAND GRENADE INTO A CAR OCCUPIED BY LAHORE MNA QAYYUM NIZAMI (PPP) IN A BUSY INTERSECTION ON FRINGE OF RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. NIZAMI ESCAPED SERIOUS INJURY BUT NOT SO PPP WORKER WITH HIM.

2. ALSO ON APRIL 20 THE LAHORE HIGH COURT ISSUED ORDER FOR RELEASE ON BAIL OF PNA LEADERS MIAN KHURSHID KASURI AND HAMID SARFARAZ, STUDENT LEADER JAVED HASHMI AND MUJIB-UR-RAHMAN SHAMI, EDITOR OF PRO-JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI WEEKLY. ORDER RELATED TO THEIR DETENTION IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED CRIMINAL ASSAULT ON POLICE AND POLICE VEHICLE. ALSO INCLUDED IN ORDERS BUT NOT RELEASED ON BAIL BECAUSE OF OTHER PENDING CHARGES WERE MIAN MAHMOOD KASURI AND AIR MARSHAL ASGHAR KHAN WHO REMAIN IN DETENTION. SHORTLY AFTER THEIR RELEASE, JAVED HASHMI AND MUJIB-UR-RAHMAN LED PNA PROCESSION REPORTED ABOVE.

3. NAWA-I-WAQT ON APRIL 21 PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ACTING PNA PRESIDENT NSWABZADA NASRULLAH KHAN QUOTING HIM AS SAYING "THE REAL AND BASIC ISSUE FOR THE PNA IS FRESH NATIONAL ELECTIONS." ACCORDING TO REPORT, NASRULLAH KHAN EXPLAINED THAT IF PRIME MINISTER UNDERTAKES TO HOLD NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THE PNA WILL BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DIALOGUE WITH HIM. THIS IS INTERPRETED AS A SIGNIFICANT RELAXATION OF PNA STAND THAT BHUTTO'S RESIGNATION IS A PRECONDITION TO NEGOTIATIONS AND IS INTENDED AS AN ACCOMMODATION TO CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON PRIME MINISTER'S RESIGNATION IN ABSENCE OF A SUCCESSOR. NASRULLAH SAID CIVIL WAR UNLIKELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN PAKISTAN BECAUSE "NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF POPULATION IS WITH PNA."

4. OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN NAWA-I-WAQT WERE (A) RESIGNATION OF ONE OF ASSISTANT ADVOCATE GENERALS OF PUNJAB (TRADITIONALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT), "BECAUSE OF PRESENT SITUATION AND TREATMENT METED OUT TO LAWYERS COMMUNITY" AND (B) RESIGNATION FROM PPP OF SARGODHA MNA MALIK ANWAR ALI NOON, FOURTH MEMBER OF "GROUP OF SEVEN" LEAD BY SHAUKAT HAYAT TO LEAVE THE PARTY. NOON EXPLAINED THAT HE COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT SPECTATOR OF BLOODSHED IN COUNTRY AND CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TO REACH SETTLEMENT WITH PNA WITH VIEW TO FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT AND CALLING FOR FRESH ELECTIONS SO AS TO SAVE THE COUNTRY.

5. THIRTY-FOUR LABOR LEADERS (AMONG THEM SEVEN PROMINENT ONES INCLUDING BASHIR BAKHTIAR AND MIRZA MOHAMMAD) REPRESENTING LARGE SECTORS OF ORGANIZED LABOR ANNOUNCED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE FEDERATIONS HAD JOINTLY PASSED A RESOLUTION ON APRIL 20

DEMANDING BHUTTO'S RESIGNATION, FRESH NATIONAL ELECTIONS, END OF EMERGENCY, RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, END OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE, DISBANDING OF NATIONAL PRESS TRUST AND WITHDRAWAL OF "BLACK LABOR LAWS." IF THESE DEMANDS WERE NOT MET, LEADERS PROCLAIMED THEY WOULD BE "COMPELLED TO TAKE SERIOUS ACTION."

6. APRIL 21 PAKISTAN TIMES CARRIED EXCERPTS OF ARTICLE APPEARING DAY BEFORE IN EGYPTIAN PUBLICATION AL SIASSI REPORTING THAT POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN ISLAMABAD ARE ASKING IF PRESENT INCIDENTS ARE MERELY STANCE TAKEN BY OPPOSITION ACTING ON ITS OWN OR ARE THERE SOME FORCES WHO ARE SECRETLY MOTIVATING THEM FROM BEHIND THE SCENES? ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, BHUTTO ANSWERED THIS QUESTION WHEN HE REFERRED TO FORCES MOTIVATING THE OPPOSITION IN ITS DRIVE TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT WHICH, AS PRIME MINISTER SAID, BEGAN LAST NOVEMBER WHEN GOP DECIDED TO IMPORT NUCLEAR PLANT FROM FRANCE AFTER IT HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAILED TO GET ONE FROM US.

7. DEMONSTRATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR APRIL 21 IN LAHORE ARE: (A) PROCESSION LED BY COUNCIL OF LIBERAL STUDENTS (PRESUMABLY PRO-PPP) EARLY IN AFTERNOON; (B) PRO-PNA PUBLIC MEETING LED BY PROMINENT ULEMAS AT NILA GUMBAT MOSQUE BEFORE 5 O'CLOCK PRAYERS AND (C) BIG PRO-PNA PROCESSION FROM THAT MOSQUE TO MARTYRS' MOSQUE ON MALL AFTER PRAYERS.

8. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT "JAM THE WHEELS" HARTAL ON APRIL 22 WILL BE COMPLETE. PNA ALSO PLANS SEVERAL PRO-CESSIONS IN DOWNTOWN LAHORE DURING AFTERNOON. SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL HAS SUGGESTED TO CONGEN THAT FOREIGNERS REMAIN OFF STREETS TOMORROW.
GAMON

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